



SAINT MARY

SCHOOL

Inspired education from  
pre-K to 8th grade



INSPIRING GREAT MINDS

How classical Catholic education builds essential skills every child needs





*"In standardized tests, there is a right and a wrong answer, and that's it. Classical Catholic education emphasizes questioning: Seek and find. Students are encouraged to think for themselves. There's a lot of love in the process."*

– Kathryn Abbud  
Second Grade Teacher  
Saint Mary School

## Did You Know?

Mistakes are an important part of the learning process. Fostered by experienced teachers, classical Catholic education provides a supportive, nonjudgmental environment for children to explore, make mistakes, and grow from the experience.

## What is classical Catholic education?

Classical Catholic education has trained some of the greatest minds our world has ever known.

Grounded in the rich educational tradition of the Catholic Church, this teaching approach challenges students to think deeply, ask questions, and draw logical conclusions to develop important intellectual skills like reasoning and critical thinking. Beginning in the earliest grades, children develop into engaged students who truly love to learn.

This time-tested curriculum is experiencing a great resurgence at Catholic schools across the United States. There's a growing recognition among educators and parents that school should be more about training young minds to think, rather than on rote memorization and test scores.

*Read on to discover how a classical Catholic education will benefit your child.*



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1. **Well-rounded Scholars.** Classical Catholic education introduces students—even at the youngest ages—to studies in classical literature, history, Latin, science, mathematics, and culture. Teachers emphasize the connections between subject areas that most schools tend to place in silos.
2. **Strong Voices.** A major aim of classical Catholic education is to help children find their voice. Teachers encourage students to ask questions and participate in lively discussions to share their knowledge.
3. **Joyful Learners.** When students are comfortable participating in class, they gain confidence and become more engaged, fostering a love of school and creating a culture of lifelong learning.
4. **Deep Thinkers.** Starting in the youngest grades, an emphasis on analytical thinking and debate prepares students for the challenges of high school, college, and life.
5. **Compassionate Citizens.** Faith is a central part of the classical Catholic curriculum. Students learn that God is present in all people and things. They are committed to shaping a more fair and just world.
6. **Successful Adults.** The rigor of classical Catholic education provides the foundation for a lifetime of success. Graduates are ready to excel at outstanding colleges and universities, and later, to lead in their careers and communities.

### Why Latin?

At schools like Saint Mary, studies in Latin begin in kindergarten. Research shows that learning a second language boosts problem-solving, critical thinking, and listening—plus, it improves memory and concentration. Here's how Latin paves the way for future academic and career success:

### Stronger Analytical Skills:

The logical structure of Latin provides the perfect framework to train the brain to think analytically.

### Better Communicators:

More than half of English vocabulary is derived from Latin roots and 90 percent of English words longer than two syllables are Latin-based. Students with a strong background in Latin are effective communicators—a skill in high demand by employers today.

**Higher SAT Scores:** Studies show that students who learn Latin for two or more years can score 140-160 points higher on the SAT than their peers.

## Did You Know?

Many professions incorporate Latin vocabulary in the workplace. From medicine to law and science, Latin words help to organize and define complex topics. Students who have a strong working knowledge of Latin in elementary and high school have a head start when studying to become doctors, lawyers, and scientists.



# Classical Catholic Education at Saint Mary School

Saint Mary School offers a dynamic classical Catholic curriculum integrating faith and reason for children in grades pre-K through eight. In our lively and interactive classrooms, children are encouraged to ask questions and debate important topics. Teachers also challenge students to read more and think for themselves as they explore and find their place in the world God has created.

Our teachers have participated in professional development training through the Institute for Catholic Liberal Education (ICLE), a leading resource for Catholic schools on the classical Catholic educational model. Over the past decade, ICLE has seen skyrocketing demand from schools across the nation seeking to renew their curricula. Schools that have transitioned to this model have reported increased enrollment, stronger parish communities, and higher standardized test scores.

As a result of this engaging and challenging educational approach, Saint Mary School is considered a preeminent Catholic school in the region. In fact, readers of the *Asbury Park Press* voted Saint Mary the best private elementary school in Monmouth County.

## What About Test Scores?

At most schools, the goal for students is to achieve high grades. While test scores are important markers, schools like Saint Mary are more interested in fostering long-term intellectual growth than memorization of facts—many of which are forgotten right after the test.

That's why you won't find Saint Mary teachers and students preparing for weeks to take required standardized tests. The classical Catholic curriculum has already provided our students with the knowledge needed to achieve high scores.



**SAINT MARY**  
S C H O O L

## Discover Saint Mary School.

Scan the QR code or call  
Principal Craig Palmer at (732) 671-0129  
for more information about our outstanding  
academic programs in grades pre-K through 8.

